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Records of birds from Timor: some additions and corrections

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In a catalogue of the Timor specimens in the Museu Bocage, Lisbon, Bacelar (1958) listed seven species as either new to Timor or as range extensions for eastern (formerly Portuguese) Timor. I recently questioned the validity of two of these (Bruce 1975) as at the time I had been unable to obtain information on the specimens in question. This problem was rectified during a visit to the Museu Bocage on 28 November 1977, when I was able to examine all questionable specimens.

Falco s. subbuteo. The single mounted specimen (reg. no. 303G), collected

in January 1896 was photographed and comparison of the colour transparencies with material in the British Museum (Natural History) showed it to agree well in all plumage characters with specimens of F. s. subbuteo from central Asia; the thighs, lower belly and under-tail coverts are pale buff, indicating an immature bird. It is not the Australian F. longipennis as I suggested earlier (1975). The specimen thus represents the easternmost record of the species, which is only a rare vagrant to the Indonesian area.

Hemiprocne c. comata. The specimen proves to be Collocalia esculenta, a resident species of Timor. In my earlier note I had suggested mislabelling of

this specimen, since Hemiprocne comata is unrecorded from Wallacea.

Of the other species listed by Bacelar as new for Portuguese Timor, two warrant a mention. Halcyon s. sancta is listed in the summary but not in the text. In the collection there are two mounted birds from the northern coast around Dili, where it was noted as common by their collector. The specimen identified as Ficedula timorensis proves to be F. hyperythra, a widespread resi-

dent species.

Mees (1976), in a note on overlooked Timor records of Salomon Müller, included comments on the lapwing Rogibyx tricolor (= Vanellus cucullatus) known by one mounted specimen from Timor. However, Forbes & Robinson (1899:64) listed two specimens from Timor in the Merseyside County Museums, Liverpool. I have examined these specimens, both collected early last century, almost certainly by Müller. One of these (reg. no. D.3008a) was obtained from Temminck by the dealer John Leadbeater and purchased by Lord Derby on 2 August 1840 (cf. Morgan 1975 for additional historical background of these collections). The second specimen (reg. no. D.3008) was obtained by Lord Derby from John Gould in November 1841 and most probably originated from Temminck, perhaps during a visit by Gould to Leiden (P. J. Morgan pers. comm.). Temminck was quite positive about the locality Timor, and additional evidence may be found amongst Müller's manuscript notes; but Mees (in litt.) doubts the provenance Timor of the Leiden specimen. As pointed out by Mees (1976), large numbers of birds were exchanged by Temminck and many of these specimens have since disappeared. This lapwing is now very rare and all recent records have been from Java (cf. Kooiman 1940).

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